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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Latvian SSR)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Transportation and Communications in Latvia	DATE DISTR.	27 September 1954
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCE NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	50X1-HUM

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Railroads

1. In the summer of 1953, the railroad system in the Baltic Republics was placed under the Baltic Railroad Directorate, with its headquarters in Riga. No changes have taken place in the Latvian railroad system since summer 1952, except that the Riga-Rujiena railroad line resumed work; it is planned to repair the line as far as Limbazi. 50X1-HUM
2. Many new locomotives, railroad cars, and machines from Russia have been allocated to the Latvian railroads this year. Locomotives for passenger trains came from the Krasnoye Sormovo Works in Gorkiy. Passenger cars came from the Yegorov Works in Leningrad and are similar to those in use on the Moscow-Leningrad railroad line. Freight cars came from Kalinin, Dneprodzerzhinsk, and Kryukovo. Some new dispatch control apparatus was also received.
3. Work is nearly completed on the Jelgava railroad network. New plans for the Riga rail junction are being worked out, including the division of freight and shunting among the Riga stations. There are also plans to develop the connection of Riga Port with the railroad. Work on a double track to Moscow has not yet started. Electrification of the lines Riga-Saulkrasti and Riga-Sigulda has been suspended.

Roads and Road Transportation

4. No new roads are being built. Existing roads are being repaired, and the road to Lubana is being rebuilt. 50X1-HUM
5. Except for a few new bus lines and an increase in the number of buses, no big changes have taken place in the Riga bus system during the past year. At present, in Latvia, there is a network of 90 bus routes connecting the various towns, on which 142 buses of ZIS-155 make are in use. 50X1-HUM

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6. The number of trucks on kolkhozy has increased. Last year, the kolkhozy received approximately 400 trucks.

Ports

7. On the whole, the ports are being modernized, new cranes and transportation facilities are being installed, and some sectors are being completely mechanized. The port at Ventspils receives the greatest attention. Jetties are being built on the Gulf of Riga, where the output from the local fuel and building materials industry can be loaded on to ships.

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Airlines

8. There is a new airline from Riga to Novosibirsk, with stops at Moscow, Kazan, Sverdlovsk, and Omsk. The flight takes 17 hours. During the summer, an airline was started from Riga to Odessa.

Telephones and Radio Networks

9. In the rural areas, old telephone exchanges are being replaced by new installations produced by the VEF Radio Factory in Riga.
10. The installation of radio networks to kolkhozy is being speeded up. Radio-broadcasting equipment is produced by the Popov Works in Riga. This work is heavily subsidized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Procurement as a means of propaganda; the Latvian kolkhozy have previously been somewhat out of reach of the propaganda machine, which has not had much success in these areas.

Comments

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Latvia was reported to have 113 bus routes.

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